

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-06 RSC-01 (ADP) R

66665

DRAFTED BY: AF: W: RKSHERWOOD

APPROVED BY: AF: W: W. RUDOLPH AGGREY

EUR:(403: MR. DUTTON

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R 202129 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ABIDJAN, ADDIS ABABA,
BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGE, DAKAR, DUBLIN, LAGOS, LUXEMBOURG,
NIAMEY, PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE, EC BRUSSELS, GENEVA, OCED
PARIS APRIL 18, 1973 FROM LONDON IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS LONDON 04588

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, XA, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON EC ASSOCIATION
ARRANGEMENTS

1. THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT
AID, HANS- BRODER KROHN, SPOKE AT A MEETING IN LONDON
ON APRIL 17 THAT WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL
AFRICAN SOCIETY AND THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
KROHN COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON THE COMMISSION' S RECENT
REPORT ON THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE YAOUNDE
CONVENTION COUNTRIES AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES.

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2. MOST OF KROHN'S REMARKS WERE DIRECTED AT THE ANTAGONISM OF VARIOUS ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES TOWARD THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION. " THE COMMISSION HAS NOT PROPOSED YAOUNDE III," KROHN SAID. IT HAS SUGGESTED A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ITS ASSOCIATES. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT SHOULD THUS BE REGARDED AS A " POINT OF DEPARTURE," AND THE COMMUNITY WILL TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF ANY OTHER PROPOSALS THAT ARE MADE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. KROHN STRESSED THAT THERE IS " NO QUESTION OF LIMITING THE SCOPE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY SETTING PRIOR CONDITIONS." HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT ANY FUTURE ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENTS WILL INVOLVE NO LIMITATIONS ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES OR ON THEIR FREEDOM OF CHOICE WITH REGARD TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

3. KROHN EXPRESSED THE COMMISSION'S STRONG HOPE THAT ALL THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION COUNTRIES AND ALL THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. PARTICIPATION, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A COMMITMENT TO SIGN. KROHN ALSO SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD WELCOME AFRICAN STATES NOT MENTIONED IN THE EC ACCESSION TREATY TO JOIN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO ETHIOPIA, SUDAN AND LIBERIA.

4. KROHN OUTLINED THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH TO REVERSE PREFERENCES ALONG THE LINES OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. A GATT ARTICLE XXV WAIVER WOULD NOT BE A STABLE BASIS FOR AN ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, BECAUSE IT HAS TO BE RENEWED EVERY YEAR. THE ASSOCIATED STATES WILL HAVE FULL AUTONOMY TO EXTEND ANY PREFERENCES THAT THEY GRANT TO THE COMMUNITY TO THIRD COUNTRIES, EITHER UNILATERALLY OR THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

5. KROHN SAID THAT THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT ANY SPECIAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN ITS FUTURE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT CREATE OBSTACLES TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE FREE PLAY OF MARKET FORCES.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, KROHN
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SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WILL INSIST ON TWO CRITERIA:
THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION COUNTRIES MUST MAINTAIN THEIR
PRESENT ADVANTAGES AND THE NEW ASSOCIATES MUST RECEIVE
THE SAME LEVELS OF AID AS THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION
COUNTRIES. THE OVERALL SIZE OF THE EDF WILL THEREFORE
INCREASE, BUT KROHN DECLINED TO ESTIMATE HOW MUCH.

SOHM UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE074976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF: W: RKSHERWOOD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730448/aaaaitpx.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980127
Subject: EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON EC ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENTS
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005